As per available information, 44 para-military personnel were injured during the last three years.

(b) The Central Government has set up a Coordination Centre, headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the States seriously affected by left wing extremism, as its members, to review and coordinate the steps taken by these States to check extremist activities, monitor the plan of action in respect of each state and to make recommendations both on development and security aspects of the problem.

The Coordination Centre has been meeting periodically. Several important decisions such as providing financial support from the Centre for combating left wing extremist activities, construction/ improvement of identifed critical roads, preparation of plans for development of affected areas to tackle the problem in a holistic manner, sharing of intelligence inputs on constant basis, providing help of para-military forces on need basis, etc., have also been taken and effectively followed-up.

Death sentence for Rapists

2200. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item titled "Incestuous rape on the rise", as appeared in the 'Hindustan Times', dated 15th January, 2000.

(b) whether it is a fact that rape cases mostly involve near and dear ones; and

(c) if so, by when Government propose to bring a legislation before Parliament to impose the death penalty to such wrong doers as asserted by the Minister several times?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The information available does indicate that the perpetrators of crime in majority of rape cases, reported during the last three years in Delhi, were relatives or persons known to the victims.

(c) The proposal to provide death as one of the penalties for the offence of rape is under consideration of the Government.